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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/620,287	07/15/2003	Patrick J. Sweeney	029815-0102	7722
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EXAMINER				
KOHARSKI, CHRISTOPHER				
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3763				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
02/05/2009		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/620,287

Applicant(s)

SWEENEY, PATRICK J.

Examiner

CHRISTOPHER D. KOHARSKI

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 November 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SG/US)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 10/15/2008
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 10/23/2008 has been entered.

Response to Amendment

Examiner acknowledges the reply filed 10/23/2008 in which claims 1 and 13 were amended. Currently claims 1-17 are pending for examination in this application.

Information Disclosure Statement

The information disclosure statement (IDS) that was submitted on 10/15/2008 is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the examiner is considering the information disclosure statement.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-6, 9-11, and 13-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Spievack et al. (USPN5,871,484). Spievack et al. discloses an apparatus and method for administering biologically active substance to a bone.

Regarding claims 1-6, 9-11, and 13-17, Spievack et al. discloses a device (Figure 12, 90) for delivering a substance to a bone, the device comprising: (a) a bone screw (92) comprising two ends connected by a shaft, wherein the shaft is cannulated along at least a portion of its length; (b) one or more bone-screw fenestrations (94) disposed along the cannulated portion of the bone-screw shaft; (c) an insert (30) disposed inside the cannulated bone-screw shaft, wherein the insert comprises two ends connected by a shaft and is cannulated (through connection 34) along at least a portion of its length; and (d) one or more insert fenestrations (sponge pores) disposed along the cannulated portion of the insert between the two ends of the insert, wherein the insert is movable between: a first position (see marked up figure below, above or below the fenestrations 94) wherein none of the one or more insert fenestrations align with the one or more bone-screw fenestrations such that the insert substantially prevents material (fluid pressure through delivery from 30) from entering the cannulated portion of the bone-screw through the one or more bone-screw fenestration; and a second position (overlaying the fenestrations as shown in Figure 12) wherein the insert provides a delivery pathway for the substance between at least one end of the bone screw and the at least one bone- screw fenestration (Figure 12, cols 1-2).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

Claims 7-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as being unpatentable over Spievack et al. (USPN5,871,484) in view of Sasso et al. (US2004/0225292) (or Chappius (US2001/0021852)). Spievack et al. meets the claim limitations as described above except for the specific bone screw assembly materials.

However, Sasso et al. teaches a bone anchor and methods of using the same and Chappius teaches a fenestrated surgical screw and method.

Regarding claims 7-8, Sasso et al. teaches a device (10) for delivering a substance to a bone comprising a bone screw (12) comprising two ends (12a, 22) connected by a shaft wherein the shaft (30) is cannulated along a portion of its length, one or more bone-screw fenestrations disposed along its length to provide a delivery pathway for substance through the bone-screw (Figures 1-12). Additionally, the screw

is composed of various alloys ([0033]), and the screw is capable of being used for fixation (Figure 12).

Regarding claims 7-8, Chappius teaches a device (10) for delivering a substance to a bone comprising a bone screw (Figure 1) comprising two ends (14, 16) connected by a shaft wherein the shaft (near 22) is cannulated (22) along a portion of its length, one or more bone-screw fenestrations (24) disposed along its length to provide a delivery pathway for substance through the bone-screw (Figures 1-10). Additionally, the screw is composed of various alloys ([0027]), and the screw is capable of being used for fixation (Figure 12).

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious use the materials of Sasso et al. or Chappius with the system of Spievack et al. because they are well known high strength biocompatible materials. The references are analogous in the art and with the instant invention; therefore, a combination is proper. Therefore, one skilled in the art would have combined the teachings in the references in light of the disclosure of Sasso et al. ([0001-0014]) or Chappius ([0001-0013]). Further, it has been held to be within the general skill of a worker in the art to select a known material on the basis of its suitability for the intended use as a matter of obvious design choice. *In re Leshin*, 227 F.2d 197, 125 USPQ 416 (CCPA 1960).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as being unpatentable over Spievack et al. (USPN5,871,484) in view of in view of Wilcox et al. (USPN5,681,289). Spievack et al. meets the claim limitations as described above except for the implanted pump.

However, Wilcox et al. discloses a chemical dispensing system.

Regarding claim 12, Wilcox et al. discloses a device (87,105) for delivering a substance to a bone (85), the device comprising: a bone rod (87,105) used for fixation comprising two ends connected by a shaft, wherein the shaft is cannulated (88) along a portion of its length; one or more fenestrations (90,109) disposed along the cannulated portion of the bone rod shaft; an insert (100,110) disposed inside the cannulated bone screw, wherein the insert comprises two end connected by a shaft and is cannulated (103) along at least a portion of its length, wherein the insert is capable delivery pathway for a substance between at least one end of the bone screw (89, 96) (Figures 8-10) (Figures 11-13). Wilcox et al. also discloses multiple embodiments in which reservoirs are present: an external tube (91), pump (127) or subcutaneous pump (62) in which the therapeutic fluid can be introduced into the system (Figures 6, 9 and 14).

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to incorporate the implantable pump of Wilcox et al. to the system of Spievack et al. in order to provide a continuous dosing mechanism. The references are analogous in the art and with the instant invention; therefore, a combination is proper. Therefore, one skilled in the art would have combined the teachings in the references in light of the disclosure of Wilcox et al. (cols 1-2).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 10/23/2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant's Representative asserts that the Spievack et al. reference does not disclose a first position wherein none of the one or more insert fenestrations

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align with the one or more bone-screw fenestrations such that the insert substantially prevents material from entering the cannulated portion of the bone-screw through the one or more bone-screw fenestrations.

Examiner has fully considered applicant's arguments but they are not persuasive. It is examiners position that given a careful reading, the claims do not distinguish over the prior art of record.

Examiner asserts that the sponge member (30) of Spievack et al. can be placed at either the top or bottom of the cannulated screw to provide delivery via the sponge member (30) (without seals 35, see col 6, ln 1-20) in order to provide a positive fluid pressure which will prevent material from entering the bone screw body (see drawing next page).

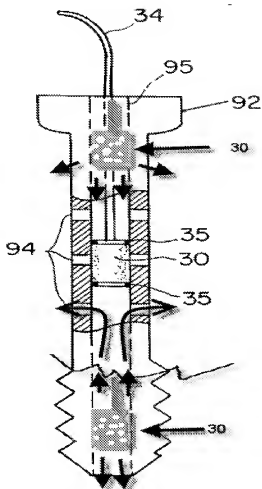


FIG. 12

The prior art of record teaches all elements as claimed and these elements satisfy all structural, functional, operational, and spatial limitations currently in the claims. Therefore the standing rejections are proper and maintained.

Suggested Subject Matter

The following claim subject matter is suggested by the examiner and considered to distinguish patentably over the art of record in this application and is therefore presented to Applicant for consideration:

Examiner suggests further clarification of the fenestrated insert or further clarification of the insert and bone screw body with respect to the fluid communication during each position or the physical location of the insert/bone screw body during each position.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christopher D. Koharski whose telephone number is 571-272-7230. The examiner can normally be reached on 5:30am to 2:00pm EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nick Lucchesi can be reached on 571-272-4977. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Date: 1/30/2009

/Christopher D Koharski/

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Examiner, Art Unit 3763

/Nicholas D Lucchesi/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3763